

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A transport device for transporting goods or goods on pallets, along a transport path, the device comprising:

rails;

[[two]] lateral, driven peripheral traction elements; and

5 support elements by which the goods or the good on a pallet are supported, each of said support elements having at least one surface in sliding engagement with one of said rails, each of said support elements being fixed in an articulated manner to a peripheral traction element.

2. (Previously Presented) A transport device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the support elements are arranged at closely spaced locations next to one another in a row along the traction element and essentially cover the peripheral traction element.

3. (Previously Presented) A transport device in accordance with claim 1, wherein each said peripheral traction element has said support elements of its own.

4. (Previously Presented) A transport device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the support elements have an identical and one-piece design and have a flat upper side.

5. (Previously Presented) A transport device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the support elements have exclusively a carrying function and the traction elements have exclusively

a traction function.

6. (Currently Amended) A transport device in accordance with claim 5, wherein the support elements have at least one lower sliding surface and slide on a stationary stainless steel rail, being supported by same.

7. (Previously Presented) A transport device in accordance with claim 6, wherein the rail has a longitudinal guiding function for the support elements or the traction elements.

8. (Previously Presented) A transport device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the support elements are plastic parts comprising especially moldings, which are preferably provided with a self-lubricating effect, good slidability, good compressive strength and/or good impact resistance.

9. (Previously Presented) A transport device in accordance with claim 4, wherein an upper side of the support elements has a slight upward arch in the direction of transportation.

10. (Previously Presented) A transport device in accordance with claim 4, wherein the upper side of the support elements has a flat depression in the direction of transportation in the area of the traction element.

11. (Previously Presented) A transport device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the support elements have an essentially inverted U-shaped cross section.

12. (Previously Presented) A transport device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the support elements have an essentially double T-shaped cross section, and said integrated upper support surfaces are also provided laterally from the traction element for the goods or the pallet.

13. (Previously Presented) A transport device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the support elements have an at least two-layer design and have an upper elastic layer, which acts as a flexible, skid-resistant, flat support pad.

14. (Previously Presented) A transport device in accordance with claim 1, wherein each said support element is fixed to the traction element in the form of a transport chain, via two studs at right angles to the direction of transportation.

15. (Previously Presented) A transport device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the transport device forms a longitudinal transporter and/or a transverse transporter.

16. (Previously Presented) A transport device in accordance with claim 15, wherein the longitudinal transporter has an additional middle transport strand forming one of the lateral traction elements and the support elements, or an additional roller or sliding strip in the middle.

17. (Previously Presented) A transport device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the support elements are fixed to the traction element in an easily detachable manner and can be replaced.

18. (Currently Amended) A transport device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the support elements have at least one lower sliding surface sliding on a rail and the traction elements and/or the [[rails]] rail have a lateral wall cover.

19. (Currently Amended) A transport device comprising:
a first transport chain;
a first rail for guiding said first transport chain;
a second rail laterally spaced from said first rail for guiding said second transport chain,
5 said first rail and said second rail extending substantially parallel;

a second transport chain laterally spaced from said first transport chain, said first transport chain and said second transport chain being driven to each providing a peripheral transport path;

10 a first support element with a good or pallet supporting surface, said first support element being articulated to said first transport chain, said first support element having at least one sliding surface in sliding contact with said first rail; and

a second support element with a second support element good or pallet supporting surface, said second support element being articulated to said second transport chain, said

second support element having at least one sliding surface in sliding contact with said second

15 rail.

20. (Currently Amended) A transport device according to claim 19, further comprising:

a first rail for guiding said first transport chain;

a second rail for guiding said second transport chain, said first rail and said second rail extending substantially parallel to define the transport path; and

5 a drive, wherein said first transport chain has a plurality of said first support elements connected thereto and said second transport chain has a plurality of said second support elements connected thereto.

21. (New) A transport device for transporting goods or goods on pallets, along a transport path, the device comprising:

two lateral, driven peripheral traction elements, said traction elements having exclusively a traction function; and

5 support elements by which the goods or the good on a pallet are supported, each of said support elements being fixed in an articulated manner to a peripheral traction element, said support elements having exclusively a carrying function, said support elements having at least one lower sliding surface, said support sliding on a stationary steel rail and being supported by same.

22. (New) A transport device for transporting goods or goods on pallets, along a transport path, the device comprising:

two lateral, driven peripheral traction elements, said traction elements having exclusively a traction function; and

5 support elements by which the goods or the good on a pallet are supported, each of said support elements being fixed in an articulated manner to a peripheral traction element, said support elements having exclusively a carrying function, said support elements having at least one lower sliding surface, said support sliding on a stationary steel rail and being supported by same, said rail having a longitudinal guiding function for said support elements or said traction elements.

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23. (New) A transport device for transporting goods or goods on pallets, along a transport path, the device comprising:

two lateral, driven peripheral traction elements; and

5 support elements by which the goods or the good on a pallet are supported, each of said support elements being fixed in an articulated manner to a peripheral traction element, each support element having an essentially double T-shaped cross section and an upper support surface provided laterally from said traction element for receiving the goods or the pallets.

24. (New) A transport device for transporting goods or goods on pallets, along a transport path, the device comprising:

two lateral, driven peripheral traction elements; and
support elements by which the goods or the good on a pallet are supported, each of said
5 support elements being fixed in an articulated manner to a peripheral traction element, said
support elements having at least a two-layer design and an upper elastic layer, which acts as a
flexible, skid-resistant, flat support pad.

25. (New) A transport device for transporting goods or goods on pallets, along a
transport path, the device comprising:

two lateral, driven peripheral traction elements; and
support elements by which the goods or the good on a pallet are supported, each of said
5 support elements being fixed in an articulated manner to a peripheral traction element, said
support elements having at least one lower sliding surface sliding on a rail and the traction
elements and/or the rail having a lateral wall cover.